

## ISO 14001 MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT (4.5.1)

In order to be in conformance with this provision of ISO 14001 an organization must be able to answer the overall question: “How does an organization evaluate the key characteristics of the EMS with respect to conformance with the Environmental Objectives and Targets and compliance with environmental laws and regulations?”. In order to answer that question three specific tasks must be addressed under the Monitoring and Measurement section of the standard. First, the organization must establish a documented procedure to monitor and measure on a set frequency the activities that are related to the Significant Environmental Aspects. Second, the organization must ensure that the devices used to monitor and measure the activities are calibrated properly. Third, the organization must establish a documented procedure for evaluating on a set frequency compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations.

The first issue is to insure that there is a procedure in place to track the performance of the environmental management system with respect to the Significant Environmental Aspects. The Significant Environmental Aspects are transformed into Environmental Objectives and Targets. The Environmental Targets are designed to be quantifiable. Therefore, the monitoring and measurement procedures must specifically address each established target. The second issue directly requires that the target measurement be accurate and reproducible. The organization must be able to demonstrate that the instrumentation that it utilizes is both appropriate and accurate to the required tasks. In addition the records gathered under the first two issues must be recorded and maintained. The third issue relates to the fact that ISO 14001 requires that an organization evaluate, understand and recognize its obligations with respect to appropriate environmental laws and regulations. This issue should not require any additional activity beyond the all ready existing reporting requirements associated with the appropriate environmental laws and regulations. ISO 14001 does not require compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations. However, it does require that the organization understand its obligations to utilize the principle of “continual improvement”.

### Questions That Need to Be Answered:

The following questions will need to be answered in order to determine whether the Monitoring and Measurement Section meets the intent of ISO 14001:

1. Does the organization have documented procedures to monitor and measure on a set frequency the characteristics of its operation that are related to the significant environmental aspects?
2. Does the organization have proper calibration procedures to insure that measurements are accurate and reproducible?

The following questions will need to be answered in order to determine whether the Monitoring and Measurement Section meets the intent of ISO 14001:  
(cont.)

3. Does the organization have a documented procedure with a set frequency to evaluate compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations?
4. Does the organization record and maintain the above information?